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25X1

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1. In early August 1953, [redacted] VPL Major Meister and [redacted] other VPL officers in Cottbus that the VPL headquarters was transferring from Berlin to Cottbus at that time. Many apartments in Cottbus had been confiscated for 112 families of officers and officials of the headquarters. The hotels in Cottbus and the Funkar Kaserne which had been vacated by the Soviets were occupied by personnel of the VPL headquarters.
2. In August 1953, technicians of the former Hoepfner Designs Bureau were transferred to Cottbus airfield where a construction staff with Major Kunze as its chief was located. This staff which had arrived from Berlin was directly assigned to the VPL headquarters and had Soviet advisers who wore VP uniforms. Kunze was called chief engineer.
3. The VPL construction staff in Cottbus was charged with the drawing of construction plans for all VPL airfields, as well as the settling of accounts for construction work at such fields. Furthermore, this construction staff was to cooperate in the production of designs for Soviet airfields in East Germany.
4. The construction staff was directly subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior/VPL, but also had connection with the Soviet construction headquarters in Werdor, which probably also supervised its activities. The Bauunion Sued with Graduate Engineer Klunker (fnu) as its chief was subordinate to the VPL construction staff. This Bauunion of which the 1st Department was headed by construction superintendent Jahn (fnu) and the 2d Department by Construction superintendent Laukus (fnu), was to be responsible for all airfield construction projects of the VPL. Therefore, the Bauunion was released from all other construction work. It was located in a former HO building on Zwickauer Strasse in Dresden. The Bauunion Sued maintained direct connection with the Soviet construction headquarters in Werdor; however, the nature of the connection could not be determined.
5. The Tiefbau Kollektiv Grosser (collective, <sup>division</sup> for sub-surface construction work), formerly a section of the Hoepfner Designs Bureau, was dissolved and most of its personnel were assigned to the construction staff. Some specialists of the Hoepfner Designs Bureau were taken over as civil engineers by the VPL construction staff, while the other personnel of the Grosser and Hoepfner Bureaus

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- 2 - 25X1

25X1

formed a special department, referred to as Hoepfner Designs Department, which was assigned to the Bauunion Dresden. All employees of the VPL construction staff, except for the civilians of the former Grosser and Hoepfner bureaus, wore VP uniforms.

6. Very strict security measures were in force at the VPL construction headquarters with regard to the handling of classified material. There was a classified materials center which issued the required detailed plans only against a receipt signed by the departmental chief concerned. General plans were never handed out. By this method, failures in construction work occasionally occurred; e.g. it once happened that a road on an airfield, for the construction of which eight detailed plans had been issued, showed a difference in the level of the road of 30 centimeters. The classified materials center was off limits. Every evening the doors and windows of the construction headquarters were sealed. VP soldiers patrolled around the building and on the corridors inside.

25X1

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1. ☐ Comment. This information again confirms that the Ministry of the Interior/VP was transferred from Berlin-Johannisthal to Cottbus. Major Weister is reported for the first time.
2. ☐ Comment. The construction section of the Hauptabteilung Rueckwaertige Dienste (Main Department of the Rear Services) in the VPL headquarters was known previously. Its previous chief was Lieutenant Colonel Weikert, while Major Kunze, previously reported as captain, was the chief of the technical section of this headquarters. It is not quite clear whether the chief was replaced. The missions of the construction headquarters and its subordination to the Bauunion Sued have been reported previously. It appears credible that the two agencies remain in connection with the Soviet construction headquarters in Werdor which probably reserves to itself the last decision on VP construction projects. The personnel of the Bauunion Sued were reported previously.

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